

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/10661

Date Received: 9th April 2025

Response Due: 12th May 2025

Date: 28th April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 9th April 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

- 1. What is your usage of sodium chloride 5% (10ml) units in the last 12 months?**
7 packs of sodium chloride 5%.
- 2. Who have been your suppliers of sodium chloride 5% (10ml) units during the past 12 months?**
Sodium chloride 5% is dispensed from community pharmacies, therefore the Trust does not hold information regarding the suppliers.
- 3. What price does your trust pay for Sodium Chloride 5% (10ml units)?**
This information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see the below refusal notice.
- 4. What is your usage of Levofloxacin preservative free unit dose units in the last 12 months?**
305 preservative free levofloxacin unit dose vials.
- 5. Who have been your suppliers of Levofloxacin preservative free unit dose units during the past 12 months?**
Levofloxacin is dispensed from community pharmacies, therefore the Trust does not hold information regarding the suppliers.
- 6. What price does your trust pay for Levofloxacin preservative free unit dose?**
This information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see the below refusal notice.

Section 43(2) – Commercial interests

Information regarding costs per dose has been withheld under section 43(2) of the FOIA if its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.

Section 43 of the FOIA is a qualified exemption and is subject to the Prejudice Test and the Public Interest Test.

Prejudice test

We confirm that we have carried out a full prejudice test and that, on the balance of probability, the Trust's interests would be prejudiced in the event of disclosure. Therefore, we confirm that the Prejudice Test is engaged.

Public interest test

We have also carried out the Public Interest Test to ascertain whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in withholding the requested information:

Public interest in disclosure of the information:

- We acknowledge that there is public interest in transparency around how the Trust engages with suppliers and procurement.
- We acknowledge that there is public interest in the Trust's finances.

Public interest in withholding of the information:

- **Protecting public finances** – As a public authority, the Trust must ensure that it obtains the best value for money. Disclosure of the information would be likely to affect the quality of future offers provided to the Trust. It is therefore firmly in the public interest not to disclose any information which would affect commercial offers made to the Trust, which in turn will affect the Trust's finances.
- **Ensuring fair competition** – Information provided to the Trust during the procurement process contains sensitive competition information. It is not in the public interest to disclose information which would affect free and fair competition.
- **Transparency** – We understand that there is public interest in how the Trust engages with suppliers. However, we consider that the information held by the Trust would not significantly further the public understanding of its relationship with these suppliers beyond what has already been disclosed in this response.
- **Reputation damage or loss of confidence** - It is firmly in the public interest that the Trust takes all steps to protect its reputation around information handling. It is not in the public interest to do anything which would jeopardise our ability to maintain strong working relationships with third parties.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masterman', with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Gary Masterman
Associate Director of Pharmacy (Governance Assurance)

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111